

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SY-04 SCCT-01 NEA-06 NIC-01 (ISO) W

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHC 40

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1960

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINS, WB, GE, UR

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO SOVIETS ON PLO OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN

REF: BONN 16543

1. IN LIGHT OF BRITISH AND FRENCH OPPOSITION TO JOINT
APPROACH TO SOVIETS ON PLO OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN (REFTEL)
MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER DELIVERED FOLLOWING UNILATERAL
STATEMENT TO SOVIET PROTOCOL OFFICER ROMANOVSKIY
OCTOBER 25;

BEGIN TEXT: THE UNITED STATES MISSION HAS LEARNED THAT
THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN EAST BERLIN RECENTLY CAUTIONED
CERTAIN WESTERN EMBASSIES ACCREDITED TO THE GDR THAT
THEY MIGHT BE THE TARGET OF TERRORIST ATTACKS BY
MEMBERS OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION.

IN THIS CONNECTION I WISH TO RECALL THE
APPROACHES MADE TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY BY MR. BORG
ON OCTOBER 25 LAST YEAR, AND BY MYSELF ON JANUARY 4
THIS YEAR, REGARDING THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION
OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN. ON BOTH OCCASIONS WE REGISTERED
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OUR CONCERN THAT THIS OFFICE MIGHT BE USED AS A

TRAINING OR OPERATIONAL BASE FOR ARAB TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, AND STRESSED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REGARDED TERRORISM AS AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS WERE OBLIGATED TO SEEK TO ELIMINATE BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS. THE RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS ON DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN THE HAGUE CONSTITUTE CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE THREAT HAS NOT ABATED. I AM THEREFORE INSTRUCTED TO STRESS ONCE AGAIN THAT WE COUNT ON THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION OFFICE LOCATED IN WEST BERLIN IS NOT USED IN ANY WAY AS A BASE FOR ACTIVITIES OF TERRORISM OR VIOLENCE AND, IN ADDITION, THAT EFFECTIVE MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO COUNTER THREATS ARISING FROM THE PRESENCE OF OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS. END TEXT.

2. ROMANOVSKIY RESPONDED THAT, AS HE HAD STATED TO US BEFORE, SOVIET GOVERNMENT WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO TERRORISM WHEREVER IT OCCURRED AND WHOEVER PERPETRATED IT. HOWEVER, HE DOUBTED IN THIS INSTANCE WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN PLO OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN AND WARNING GIVEN BY GDR TO CERTAIN WESTERN EMBASSIES. ROMANOVSKIY SAID HE WAS SURE THAT GDR AUTHORITIES WOULD NEVER PERMIT ORGANIZATION TO BE ESTABLISHED OR CONTINUE FUNCTIONING THAT ENGAGED IN OR PROMOTED ACTS OF TERRORISM. APPARENTLY BY WAY OF FURTHER REASSURANCE HE VOLUNTEERED TO ASK GDR AUTHORITIES JUST WHAT FUNCTIONS EAST BERLIN PLO OFFICE PERFORMED. KLEIN

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